

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, the undersigned would like to express appreciation to Examiner Catherine S. Williams for her time and attention extended during the interview conducted on December 16, 2004. The subject matter of new independent claims 71, 77, and 81 was discussed during the interview in view of Publication Nos. DE 3517813 A1 to Wiedeck ("Wiedeck") and DE 3740288 C1 to Reuter ("Reuter").

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 50-53 and 55-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wiedeck. Claims 50-53 and 55-56 have been canceled, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 41-49 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiedeck. Claims 41-49 and 54 have been canceled, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

New Claims 71-76

New independent claim 71 recites a ureteral stent having "a proximal region including a first loop and a second loop, the first loop extending from the distal region, the second loop extending from the distal region, the first loop and the second loop each being constructed of substantially the same material as the distal region."

As discussed during the interview, none of the cited references disclose or suggest such a device. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that, for at least this reason, independent claim 71 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Additionally, the Applicants submit that claims 72-76 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references, at least because of their dependency from claim 71.

New Claims 77-80

New independent claim 77 recites a ureteral stent having “a proximal region including a first loop and a second loop, the first loop extending monolithically from the distal region, the second loop extending monolithically from the distal region.”

As discussed during the interview, none of the cited references disclose or suggest such a device. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that, for at least this reason, independent claim 77 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Additionally, the Applicants submit that claims 78-80 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references, at least because of their dependency from claim 77.

New Claims 81-82

New independent claim 81 recites a ureteral stent having “a distal region . . . having a length” and “a loop portion extending monolithically from a proximal end of the distal region, . . . the loop portion defining a length, the length associated with the loop portion being at least as great as the length associated with the distal region.”

As discussed during the interview, none of the cited references disclose or suggest such a device. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that, for at least this reason, independent claim 81 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Additionally, the Applicants submit that claim 82 is also patentably distinguishable over the cited references, at least because of its dependency from claim 82.

New Claim 83

New independent claim 83 recites “a proximal region including a first loop and a second loop, the first loop extending monolithically from the distal region, the second loop extending monolithically from the distal region.” None of the cited references disclose such a device. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that, for at least this reason, independent claim 83 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that such rejections be withdrawn. The Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

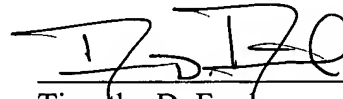
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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